(DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Report of the Committee on Policy Perspectives on Management Education has been received and is being examined.

Curbing trafficking of women

2215. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India was severely criticised during the 57th Session of the Human Rights Commission for failing to curb trafficking of women and violation of the women's rights; and

(b) if so, the details of the criticism and the steps taken to curb the trafficking?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir. The UN Human Rights Commission itself did not criticize India on any of the issues mentioned in the Question. The Commission merely took note of the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women—Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, who was on a mission in Bangladesh, Nepal and India in October/November, 2000 to study the issue of trafficking in women.

(b) The UN Special Rapporteur in her report has recommended the need for conceptual clarity in regard to the definition on trafficking; conducting a comprehensive national survey to ascertain the scope of the problem, rehabilitation and improving the services for rescued victims, the care of victims living with HIV/AIDS, etc.

The Government has already intitiated action on all the issues mentioned above including prgposing amendment to the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, setting up of a Central Cell for ensuring enforcement of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 and monitoring its implementation.

The Government has also formulated a National Plan of Action to combat trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children in 1998 with the objective to mainstream, to reintegrate women and child victims of prostitution in society through strategies that cover prevention, legislation and law enforcement, provision of

basic services to the victims of prostitution, rescue and rehabilitation, awareness generation land social mobilization. The progress of implementation of the Plan of Action is monitored through the Central Advisory Committee headed by Secretary (WCD). The Government has also issued instructions to the States/UTs for establishing the necessary mechanism to ensure speedy implementation of the Plan of action and the provisions of Immoral Traffaic (Prevention) Act, 1956.

Arbitrary removal of BALCO employees

†2216. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that employees in BALCO are being removed arbitrarily after implementation of VRS in the Company; and

(b) if so, what action Government are taking to protect interests of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) In the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 8.5.2001 between the workers' unions and the new management of BALCO, it was agreed that the existing VRS (based on 2 months' benefit) would be opened from time to time, and that the workers would be given this option next in July, 2001. Accordingly, BALCO management has re-introduced the VRS with effect from 31.7.2001; the scheme will be open up to 16.8.2001.

(b) The Government had stipulated in the Shareholders Agreement signed with the new management that no worker will be retrenched by the company during the period of one year after the take-over. Moreover, in case a VRS is introduced, it will be on terms not less favourable than the VRS offered by Government. The BALCO management is adhering to both these stipulations.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.